

DATE 10/29/86 FILE

FILE 25X1

DOC NO EUR M 86-20119OIR 3P & PD 1EUR
RECORD COPY

Background Briefing for the DCI
 EURA/WE/IA/
 15 October 1986

25X1

Spanish-Soviet Relations

Spanish leaders would like to expand ties with the Soviet Bloc in order to promote revival of East-West detente, to provide new opportunities for Spanish businessmen, and to give an independent accent to Madrid's pro-Western foreign policy. The Soviets, for their part, apparently hope to tilt Spanish diplomacy in a neutralist direction oriented toward the Third World. So far, however, the Soviets have had little success influencing Madrid's foreign policy through either active measures or the Spanish Communist Party (PCE), and, perhaps as a result, they have shown little interest in increasing trade and cultural ties with the Gonzalez government.

25X1

25X1

-- Bloc agents have had considerable success placing negative stories in the press about the US military presence, CIA, and NATO.

25X1

Spanish Communists are likely to prove increasingly helpful to Moscow.

-- During the past decade the PCE's championing of Eurocommunism made the party a thorn in Moscow's side at the same time that internal schisms reduced its ability to promote the neutralist foreign policy the Soviets favored for Spain.

-- Within the past year, however, the PCE has reunited most Spanish Communists behind it and largely abandoned its former independent posture.

-- Too slavish a devotion to Moscow's line could eventually erode the PCE's credibility and its usefulness to the Soviets, but the party's current leadership appears too savvy to let that happen.

EUR M86-20119

25X1

25X1